



LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

**red
eye**

Thurs
DECEMBER 11

★
A Chi
p

At least 14
dead in Calif.
shooting **3**

Netflix and
chill ... and
more? **4**

Warm up
with drinks at
The General **18**

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CONFES

**'JAMES WHITE'
STAR CHRISTOPHER
ABBOTT TALKS
GOING OUT ALONE,
'MRS. DOUBTFIRE'
AND MORE 12-13**

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM



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MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE FILE

DO

'THE WIZ LIVE!'
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3-DAY FORECAST



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41 30
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FRIDAY
47 31
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SATURDAY
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big picture



A SWAT vehicle carries police officers near the scene of a shooting in San Bernardino, Calif. Police responded to reports of an active shooter at a social services facility. AP PHOTO

AT LEAST 14 DEAD IN ATTACK

HOLIDAY PARTY MAY HAVE BEEN TARGET IN MASS SHOOTING IN SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.

Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.—As many as three gunmen believed to be wearing military-style gear opened fire Wednesday at a Southern California social services center “as if they were on a mission,” killing at least 14 people and wounding more than a dozen others, authorities said.

Hours later, police hunting for the attackers riddled a black SUV with gunfire several miles away, and one person lay motionless in the street with a gun nearby. Officers appeared to remove a second person from the vehicle.

San Bernardino Police Sgt. Vicki Cervantes said authorities had not immediately confirmed whether those in the SUV were involved in the carnage. And the hunt went on, as of late Wednesday afternoon, apparently for a possible third gunman. A law officer suffered minor injuries in the afternoon shootout.

It was the nation’s deadliest mass shooting since the Newtown, Conn., attack in December 2012 that left 26 children and adults dead.

Police shed no light on a motive for Thursday’s massacre.

“They came prepared to do what they did, as if they were on a mission,” San Bernardino



A woman, who declined to give her name, kisses her sister (center), a survivor of a shooting rampage in San Bernardino, Calif. AP PHOTO

Police Chief Jarrod Burguan said, noting that the attackers carried long guns, which can mean rifles or shotguns.

Witnesses said several people locked themselves in their offices, desperately waiting to be rescued by police, after gunfire erupted at the

Inland Regional Center, where social workers find jobs, housing and transportation and provide programs for people who have disabilities such as autism, cerebral palsy and epilepsy.

The attack took place in a conference area where the San Bernardino County Department

of Public Health was renting space to hold a banquet, said Marybeth Feild, president and CEO of the center in the city of 214,000 people about 60 miles east of Los Angeles. She said the building houses at least 25 employees as well as a library and conference center.

FBI agents and other law enforcement authorities converged on the center and searched room to room for the attacker or attackers.

As of Wednesday evening, ten of the wounded were hospitalized in critical condition, and three were in serious condition, San Bernardino Fire Chief Tom Hannemann said. Police cautioned that the numbers of dead and wounded were early estimates that could change.

No weapons were recovered at the center, though authorities were investigating unidentified items in the building and brought in bomb squads, Burguan said.

Terry Petit said his daughter works at the center. He got a text from her saying she was hiding in the building after hearing gunshots.

Petit choked back tears as he read the texts for reporters outside the center. He said she wrote: “People shot. In the office waiting for cops. Pray for us. I am locked in an office.”

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the chatter JOIN THE CONVERSATION

threesome

3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at [@redeyechicago](https://twitter.com/redeyechicago) or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to redeye@redeyechicago.com with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

I was watching TV at a girl's place, just the two of us (she invited me over). We watched Netflix and we chilled. I tried to put my arms around her and I kind of did, but I saw no opening to progress past that. She also wasn't acting sexual, just friendly. We were laughing and having fun, but it was like we were being friends, not potential sexual partners. How do I make things sexual? I feel like people make it sound so easy, like you just say the phrase, "Netflix and chill," then once you're in the door, the sex just happens. —Question via Reddit



Fred

Single, 35

» Host of "Fred and Angi in the Morning" on 103.5 KISS-FM
» @fredonair

Doesn't everyone know that "watching a movie" (Netflix as one means of delivery) means penetration? I felt as though this was social law? This woman is a terrorist!

Actually, there are too many details being left out of this scenario for me to know what she may have been thinking. Are you in the friend zone?

Have you two been on romantic dates, prior? Is this your second cousin and you think that is OK?

Without answers to these important queries, I can't be sure if she is brushing you off or if she is just playing hard to get for now. Maybe try another movie night? Pick a scary or sexy movie, and bring some wine. Set a romantic mood, and make your intent clearer without being aggressive or inappropriate. Good luck!



Keri Wiginton

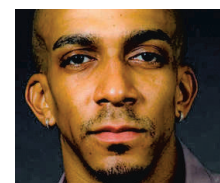
Married, 33

» Photo editor and part-time advice giver at the Chicago Tribune
» @keripphoto

I have been off the casual dating scene for 10 years, so I'll lead with this sage advice from a friend who is currently single and dating: If you're into somebody, you'll at least do a little smoochage, but this sounds like she was all "NUH UH, PLAYA."

You two clearly were not on the same page. If

she didn't give you a sign that she wanted things to go beyond friendly cuddling, then she didn't want it to go beyond friendly cuddling. Sometimes watching Netflix and chilling can be just that. You aren't guaranteed a bang sesh just because Netflix is involved. Also, figuring out how to "get to the sex part" is called dating. If you are only interested in a hookup, then that needs to be clear to both parties from the beginning.



Isaac Paul

In a relationship, 36

» Host, devil's advocate and resident know-it-all of "The Tequila Tales"
» @thetequilatales

Ah, the age-old question of how gentlemen can G.T.D. No, not "Getting Things Done" (though it sounds appropriate). I was actually referring to "Getting The Draws." Skillfully maneuvering the treacherous terrain of the friend zone is more difficult to understand than why the Seahawks didn't run the ball on the half-yard line.

Good news: You're already inside the red zone. And by that, I mean inside her house, on the couch and touching. TRUST she would not have allowed you to get this close if she found you repulsive. But to score, don't go being fancy and overthinking the play, just go for it. Wait till you guys are close and not talking, gently caress her cheek and pull in for the kiss. DON'T TALK ABOUT IT.

If she pulls back, then pick your face up and remain confident in that zone. At the very least, you put your interest out there.



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General Manager:
Maggie Wartik, @mwartik

CONTACT US

Newsroom: 312-222-4970
redeye@redeyechicago.com

Advertising: 312-527-8077
advertisingredeye@tribune.com

Classifieds: 312-222-2222

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news



Mayor Emanuel tries to calm reporters as they ask questions during a news conference on Tuesday.
ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE

MAYOR CANCELS TRIP TO PARIS

Mayor Emanuel has canceled a trip to Paris this week for a conference on climate change, saying it's more important for him to stay in Chicago in the wake of unrest tied to the release of a video showing the fatal shooting of an African-American teen by a white Chicago police officer.

"Obviously this is a challenging time for the city, and as I said, it needs sustained effort," Emanuel said during a Wednesday morning interview with Politico Illinois. "Part of that sustained effort requires the mayor to be present."

Emanuel dismissed police Superintendent Garry McCarthy on Tuesday in response to widespread criticism about the way the investigation into the death of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald in October 2014 has been handled.

CITY WAVERING ON KEEPING VIDEO OF ANOTHER SHOOTING SECRET

City officials appear to be wavering in their fight to keep secret another dash-cam video depicting a police shooting that lawyers for the victim say went down in strikingly similar fashion.

In response to questions from the Tribune, the city's Law Department said Tuesday afternoon that the city was "currently re-examining" when the video of Ronald Johnson III's shooting should be released even though the incident was still under investigation by the Independent Police Review Authority.

A spokeswoman for Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez revealed for the first time this week that the office is investigating possible criminal charges against the veteran officer who fatally shot Johnson in the back during a foot chase near 53rd and King Drive last year. Some have challenged police reports stating Johnson was armed.

LAKEVIEW'S THE ALLEY WILL CLOSE TO REINVENT ITSELF

After catering to Chicago's counterculture for more than four decades, The Alley will close its Lakeview storefront after New Year's Day, according to its owner. The store has been a mainstay near the corner of Belmont Avenue and Clark Street since it was established in 1974. Owner Mark Thomas plans to start a new business named "The Alley 1776" on the city's Northwest Side.



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4 TIPS TO NO STRESS

HOW TO BEAT THE FANTASY FOOTBALL HOLIDAY BLUES



Soxman

» redeye@redeye-chicago.com
» [@thesoxman72](https://twitter.com/thesoxman72)

While many call it “the most wonderful time of the year,” the hustle and bustle of the holiday season can be stressful and, in some cases, downright depressing.

After all, December isn’t just about lighting a menorah, setting up your table

for Kwanzaa or awaiting presents from jolly old St. Nick. It’s fantasy football playoff time!

For those in the playoffs, lineup decisions, last-minute gift purchases off the waiver wire

and checking your naughty/nice list of who to start is more stressful than going to the mall on Christmas Eve. If you are out of playoff contention, you are likely channeling George Bailey from “It’s a Wonderful Life” and wishing you were never born ... into playing fantasy football.

Take a swig of eggnog and be reassured, beating the fantasy football holiday blues is easy if you follow these four steps:

Don’t expect anything ...

... and be surprised when you get something. Expecting your team to win the championship in Week 1 of the playoffs is the equivalent of “Christmas Vacation’s” Clark Griswold wanting the perfect Hallmark holiday for his family only to blow up his tree, overcook his turkey and not get his year-end bonus. You likely weren’t counting on getting anything from Jaguars tight end Julius

Thomas this season only to be pleasantly surprised last week (116 yards, 1 TD), right?

Believe in the Island of Misfit Toys

In the 1964 stop-motion classic “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer,” our shiny-nosed friend discovered that castaways and reject toys could bring joy into people’s lives. The same holds true in shaping your fantasy playoff rosters with the likes of quarterbacks Blaine Gabbert and Kirk Cousins, running back C.J. Anderson (113 rushing yards, 2 TDs last week) or wide receiver Doug Baldwin (145 yards, 3 TDs), who before his explosion was taken in only 34 percent of ESPN leagues.

Start new traditions

Starting Rob Gronkowski weekly is as much a lock as watching “A Christmas Story” on a loop

each year on TBS. When the Bumpuses’ dogs ravaged the Parkers’ holiday turkey, Ralphie’s family started a new tradition of going out for Chinese food. With Gronk unlikely to play this week, perhaps you can find your Red Ryder BB gun (no offense, Andy Dalton) in his backup, Scott Chandler (58 yards, TD last week).

Don’t sweat what you can’t control

You didn’t get the gift you wanted, your brother got the last cookie and you didn’t make the playoffs. Who cares? Focus your attention elsewhere, like on your kids, video games or your significant other, and your fantasy stocking might get stuffed with more memories than any trophy can provide.

Next week: Better luck next year

NEED FANTASY FOOTBALL RELATIONSHIP ADVICE?

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RANDOM

Why are the answers so weird today? Because the panelists answered the questions WITHOUT SEEING THEM. Crazy, we know.



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RedEye online producer



Jane Monzures
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WGN TV



Morgan Olsen
@morgancolsen
RedEye Eat & Drink editor



Matt Pais
@mattpais
RedEye movies and music guy



Josh Terry
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RedEye music reporter

1	How high has your level of expectations risen for the Bears?	The Serengeti. That's where I'd send my newborn son.	He's gonna get totally trashed!	Brett Favre for president.	I mean absolutely not. I mean maybe.	Something something Jay Cutler.
2	Missing 22 free throws in one game is ...	If you were meant to be an MVP, you'd have one of those letters in your name. DUH!	... just the price of removing the curse.	... cheese curds.	That is offensive, and I truly cannot believe you would ask such a thing.	How about the Cubs not signing David Price? Missed opportunity, like Kobe Bryant's shot percentage.
3	Tiger Woods is having commitment issues. What's up with him this time?	I'd give him a \$5 bill and tell him to make 10 of those on the 20-yard line.	No one puts Joakim in the corner.	There's not enough space in this box for my thoughts.	"Little Giants," "3 Ninjas" and "Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey."	I think Joakim Noah might finally be back to his usual self.
4	If Chicago ends up getting an NWHL franchise, what should it be called?	This is payback for Kobe Bryant ignoring Chris Rock that one time.	The backup job is a beer vendor at the Phoenix Open.	A taco-eating contest should settle this.	I refuse to answer anything about the White Sox.	Kane hasn't had a streak this long since Kobe Bryant had a healthy knee.
5	How will we know if Joakim Noah is actually comfortable coming off the bench?	Llamas and ice cream. Always llamas and ice cream.	No puck! We're high-sticking all the way to the shoe store!	My Magic 8 Ball says you shouldn't count on it.	The Skrillex remix of the theme song to "Step by Step."	I would love to go to a museum with Pau Gasol.

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Iowa quarterback C.J. Beathard AP

Dear Iowa doubters: Luck doesn't strike 12 times in a row



Morgan Olsen

» mcolsen@redeye.chicago.com
» @morgancolsen

Back in September, if you told me the Hawkeyes would be undefeated at the end of the regular season, I would have rolled my eyes and suggested you slow down on the Fireball. And I'm a Hawkeye myself.

Yet here we are: Iowa made history with the program's

first 12-win season as it heads into the Big Ten championship game against Michigan State (7 p.m. Saturday, Fox). Hell yes.

Still, part of me feels guilty for not trusting they could make it this far. Before you hate on me for being a skeptic or call me a bandwagon fan, hear me out.

For as long as I've tuned in to the Hawkeyes (nine years and counting), I've never seen a season like this. Last year, the team left us hanging with a dismal 7-6 record. And an 8-5 season the year before that.

They're the lovable team from Iowa City, Iowa, with a fan base that runs deep in Chicago. They're not flashy or ostentatious. They're not a predictable powerhouse that everyone bets on like Ohio State. The Hawkeyes are rarely in the spotlight for long—until now.

Yet when I hear people bashing Iowa or calling the team a bunch of "frauds," it's kind of like listening to a friend hate on your parents. Sure, you're allowed to complain about your family, but as soon as a friend weighs in? Better watch your mouth. Whenever someone asks me, "How 'bout those Hawkeyes?" I can almost sense the doubt in their tone. I know it because I've felt it myself.

There were games where Iowa creamed its opponents—sorry, North Texas, Northwestern and Purdue—and we looked at those wins as givens.

Then there were games where things got dicey (hello, Pittsburgh, Indiana and Minnesota). We can chalk those wins up to luck or fantastic last-minute plays, or we can give Iowa credit. We can all—myself included—recognize that Iowa has had an outstanding season, and luck has nothing to do with it.

No, luck doesn't strike 12 times in a row. That's when talent and hard work take over. It's time to admit Iowa isn't just the lovable underdog that fell into a history-making season.

So cheers to you, Hawkeyes, for making everyone believe hard work and consistency really do pay off. And thanks for proving us wrong.

MORGAN OLSEN IS REDEYE'S EAT AND DRINK EDITOR AND AN IOWA ALUMNA. @MORGANCOLSEN

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Yet another road game for the Hawks after that six-game trip just ended? Yup. Though considering how much they struggled offensively Tuesday, a relatively quick plane ride might be just what they need. By the way, Patrick Kane can extend his points streak to 21 games. Cross your fingers.

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movies

Watch video from this interview, including Abbott quoting his favorite part of "Mrs. Doubtfire," at redeyechicago.com/abbott

By Matt Pals | REDEYE

The day after the Mets beat the Dodgers to clinch the NLDS and set a date with the Cubs, serious Mets fan and "James White" star Christopher Abbott came into the RedEye studio.

"It's going to be a good series. And nothing has happened yet, so there's no rivalry yet. If we had this interview in a week ...," joked the 29-year-old actor ("Girls," "Martha Marcy May Marlene"), who used to be a roadie/tour manager for musician friends and remembers hanging at Schubas after their shows. "You might hate me or I might hate you next week, but now we're good. [Laughs.]"

Obviously we'll forgive him for his painfully accurate prediction about the dominance of the Mets pitching staff and slugging power, because the Cubs won't let it happen again. Plus, Abbott's great in "James White," opening Friday, in which the stakes are a lot higher than baseball.

James (Abbott) is already struggling to cope with the death of his father before his mother's (Cynthia Nixon) cancer returns and prompts an end to his vacation in Mexico with his best friend (Scott "Kid Cudi" Mes-cudi). It may sound like an intense movie, and it is, but with a breakout turn from Abbott, first-time feature writer-director Josh Mond creates an intimate character study that's rewarding, not punishing.

"James White" opens with you out at a bar by yourself. If you had to generalize, if people go out to a bar alone, does that tend to be more honorable, sad or otherwise?

Well, I don't know. I guess it depends on the time of night it is. Where you're alone.

Where's the distinction?

If it's evening, cocktail hour, I'm sure that's kind of fun. I like doing that. In New York it's nice to go and sit at a bar. I guess some places it can feel uncomfortable to do that. You know, if it's 4 in the morning it's probably a little dire and sad.

If you're walking in at 4 by yourself, maybe you have an agenda.

Exactly. You're not looking for the right things at that point. [Laughs.]

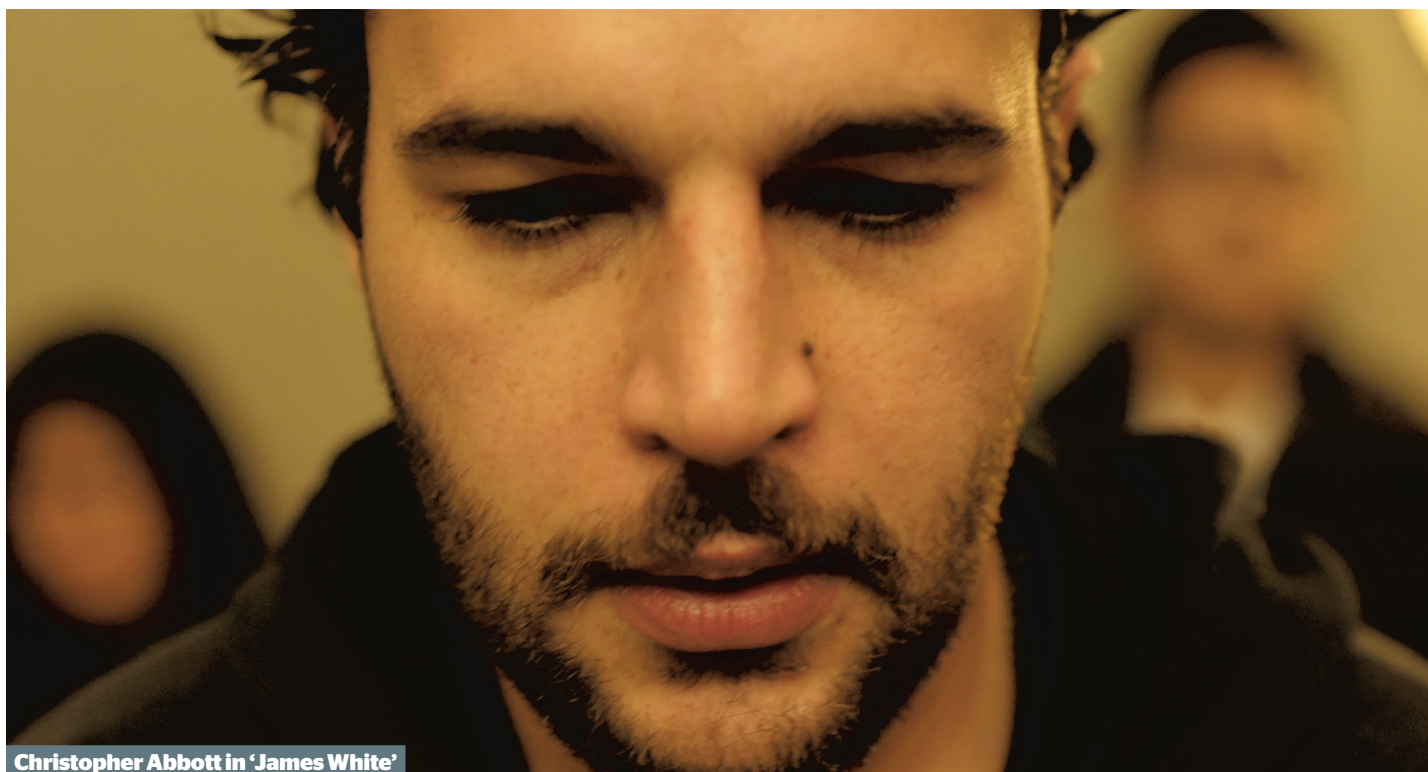
Just on occasion you like to wander into a bar and see where the night goes?

Yeah, I guess with no plan in mind sometimes. But early evening, and then eventually meet up with friends at some point. But it's nice to go have a drink by yourself sometimes. People-watch.

OUT ON HIS OWN

CHRISTOPHER ABBOTT TAKES A BREAKOUT TURN IN 'JAMES WHITE'

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE



Christopher Abbott in 'James White'

There have been reports that the number of people going out to dinner alone has skyrocketed because they're on their phone the whole time and don't feel alone.

Oh, really?

Are you able to resist that impulse when you go out?

Yeah, I think that's the nice part. 'Cause then people I guess notice you more if you're distracted by your phone. I guess if you're just sitting there and staring off at everybody, you can get weird looks too, but no, it's nice to sit at a bar and people-watch if it's the right place.

You talked about appreciating, and I think you're right, that the movie shows the importance of the day-to-day stuff when James is taking care of his mom. Getting her a towel, getting her a Tylenol. Most movies don't show this version of this story. Why do you think that is? Is it because the assumption is that viewers are too impatient for details?

I don't know. I guess on paper some of those things can kind of seem like mundane tasks or scenes. When they're that simple in a way. I think it's just about the honesty which you put into it. And Josh, the writer-director and my dear friend, even on the script he put that honesty on the page. There's always a reason behind it and some

“... I don't feel like “James White” is too much of a movie about a Millennial. At the core of it I really think it's just a relationship about a mother and son. It does of course just so happen that he's a little bit lost in his life.

kind of motivation behind it in that sense. I think it becomes recognizable for people and then in turn becomes entertaining, for lack of a better word.

So what is the more conventional version of this? It seems you wouldn't have been interested if that was the approach taken.

The bad version of this movie is that by the end he goes off on a

plane and decides to become a writer. It's not necessarily about the triumph of one man's struggle. It's more concentrated in that way. There's no time lapse in that way. It's over the span of a few months. It's really about the specific details and all the little gestures and scenes.

You talked about wanting people to be brought back to childhood with their movie experience. What's a movie that makes you think of your childhood?

When I was a kid I used to watch movies over and over again, like the same movie over and over. Like “Mrs. Doubtfire”; I loved that movie and I still do. That movie still holds up. The first “Batman.” Those movies are real nostalgic for me.

What did you enjoy so much about “Mrs. Doubtfire” at the time?

I mean, it's hilarious. The comedy in it is so ... what Robin Williams does in that is so subtle and hilarious.

If you had to re-enact a line or scene from there, which would you do?

Yeah, like when he would say things under his breath, when they're at the pool and he throws the lime at Pierce Brosnan's head and he's like, “Touch me again and I'll drown you.” He says it really subtly under his breath. I love that stuff.

It's funny that you would mention that, as evidence of an emotional outburst that's muted.

Yeah, right, exactly. Those are fun to watch. Something under the surface.

I realize the word “fun” may not work here, but is there a sense of fun when you compare filming a party scene vs. a quiet, emotional scene in “James White”?

Well, yeah, there's a vast difference in the feeling. When we were shooting too, we were lucky enough schedule-wise to group those scenes together separately. So all the scenes where James is taking care of his mother, we'd do in a certain amount of days, group 'em together, so at least for my own mindset it was nice to be able to do all the party fun, for lack of a better word, fun things over a span of days and then the scenes between me and Cynthia, a lot of them were grouped together too. Yeah, there's a huge difference. And the fun scenes are fun. The whole Mexico section of the [movie], we shot that at the end of the shoot when we went to Mexico. That was a blast; it was a small crew that went, we did a lot of fun improvising there. It was great.

Though not like this, we've certainly seen some other movies where a character is told, “Get off my couch and grow up, please.”

How much do you feel like Millennials are being underestimated with that being an overriding theme on screen and also sort of filtering into society too?

Yeah, although maybe this is just my opinion, but I don't feel like “James White” is too much of a movie about a Millennial. At the core of it I really think it's just a relationship about a mother and son. It does of course just so happen that he's a little bit lost in his life. So I don't want to go so far as to say it's a remark on society for young people in that way.

If anything, it shows that he's so multifaceted, and even though there's an aspect of him that's in denial and struggling to deal with what he's going through, he's completely capable of stepping up when life forces you to figure out what your priorities are.

And also for all his decisions there's, at least for us making it, there's a reason behind everything. Whether an audience can justify it for themselves or not, that's totally up to them. But we would at least talk about why he is the way he is and define it. Whether it's his torn feelings about his father in the beginning of the movie and then what he's dealing with, with his father and not having his best friend around when he needs him. Whether those are good enough reasons for him to act the way he acts, that's up to whoever watches it, but at least we tried our best to define it for ourselves to then make it feel as honest as possible in the movie.

On a lighter note, what tips do you have for someone who wants to know how to pick up a girl at the beach?

Just go see “James White,” and don't do what he did.

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Abbott in 2012's 'Hello, I Must Be Going'



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A strong study of a character on a tough emotional journey



Matt Pais

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“James White” opens with a striking image: The titular character (Christopher Abbott of “Girls”), sweaty and clearly going through something, moves in a club while wearing earbuds. The environment outside thumps; privately, he listens to something soothing, striving for his own calm in

a rocky world but unable to fully drown out the noise.

It's a perfect visual representation of where he's at: James' father has just passed away, and he's dealing with it by not dealing with it. He gets in fights and kicks out people who have come to pay their respects. But part of the strength of this drama comes from its ability to show how someone can be a lot of seemingly contradictory

things at once. In a breakout performance from Abbott, James' denial and care for his mom (Cynthia Nixon) when her cancer returns never seem like inconsistencies; "James White" is a coming-of-age story only in the sense that high stakes have a way of forcing many people to get their priorities in order, and writer-director Josh Mond favors reality over some kind of forced cinematic assurance that everything will be OK. It's so trite to call something an "emotional journey," partly because it implies an end to that pursuit. The complicated, difficult places James goes to, despite the support of his best friend, Nick (Scott "Kid Cudi" Mescudi), can't easily be escaped, and this is the rare movie that refuses to go easy on the experience of having a serious illness or what it takes to take care of someone who does.

Narratively, the 84-minute “James White” doesn’t have a lot to it. Mond sticks closely with James, other characters only coming into focus as they relate to him, and a degree



of “Haven’t we been here before?” sets in when James’ mom tells him, “You need to grow up and get off my couch.” But the filmmaker is wise to not stretch to try to speak for a generation. This isn’t a statement about Millennials; that title isn’t that title because nothing else would work (though I

don't know what else would have worked). This is a focused, affecting character study of someone's child going through the extremely painful process of losing a parent, and maybe two parents, seeing that between not knowing how you feel and knowing exactly how you feel, the latter's often harder.

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If you're making travel plans for 2016, or even just thinking about taking a trip next year, it may be a good idea to book your airfare sooner rather than later.

Fare sales are expected to ramp up during December after a record number of airline deals in the fall, according to Hopper,

an app that tracks airfare trends and predicts when to get the best price on a plane ticket.

"September was by far the strongest we've seen for sales," said Patrick Surry, chief data scientist at Hopper. "In October, the number of sales was up about 50 percent from the same period last year, and December could be another good month."

To take advantage of the discounts, here's what you need to know.

Book for winter or spring travel. According to Hopper's Consumer Airfare Index, the average round-trip domestic airline ticket booked in December for travel during off-peak times—generally from January until just before the start of the summer travel season

in May or June—is expected to cost just \$205. Last year, the average was \$245.

The index measures the "good-deal" price a consumer would typically pay for domestic travel (and so excludes last-minute ticket purchases for business travel that usually are far more expensive).

Surry said one reason for the greater frequency of sales has to do with the sharp decline in oil prices.

"Fuel costs have gone down a lot, so airlines have a little more room to fight each other on prices," he said.

In addition, most flights for holiday travel are already booked by the start of December. With consumers focused on completing their holiday shopping at the mall, rather than buying plane tickets, airlines start cutting fares.

Search midweek. This year, fare sales are expected to ramp up during the three weeks following Thanksgiving, and you're likely to find the best flash sales on Wednesdays and Thursdays. A flash sale is a fare drop of 20 percent or more below prevailing ticket prices.

"Sales are driven by people at the airlines," Surry said. "As the workweek starts, they'll decide if they need to run a sale in order to fill more seats." As a result, Surry said, sales usually finish as the workweek wraps up and are all but nonexistent during holidays and

weekends, when airline executives are not in the office.

Pick a popular destination. The best deals will be found if you depart from a city that is served by more than a couple of competing airlines. Those cities include Atlanta, Chicago, Denver and Philadelphia. The same is true if you travel to popular destinations in the U.S., such as Las Vegas and Orlando, and for overseas trips to cities such as Cancun, Mexico; London; and San Jose, Costa Rica.

"You tend to find the best sales at airports that have multiple carriers," Surry said. "So Boston, which is served by a lot of airlines, will have a lot more competitive price movement than a place like Detroit will."

Be flexible. Fare sales don't last long, often ending the same day that they started. And the biggest discounts will be snagged by travelers who can be flexible about their travel dates and times.

"Our advice is to keep an eye on destinations that you might be interested in," Surry said. "If you see a deal, act quickly."

CAROLYN BIGDA WRITES THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE'S WEEKLY "GETTING STARTED" COLUMN, COVERING PERSONAL FINANCE TOPICS FOR 20-SOMETHINGS. SHE ALSO IS A CONTRIBUTING EDITOR AT KIPLINGER'S PERSONAL FINANCE, WHERE SHE WRITES ABOUT STOCKS, MUTUAL FUNDS AND OTHER INVESTING TOPICS.



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winter sucks



drink

of the week

The Exquisite Corpse (\$10) at The General, 2528 N. California Ave. 773-698-8754

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

When the bitter cold of winter gets you down, sometimes all you need is booze in a fancy glass. And when that fancy glass is shaped like a skull, things really start to look up. The General in Logan Square is doing just that with the Exquisite Corpse, a floral cocktail made with gin, besk (a Swedish wormwood spirit), Peychaud's bitters, Benedictine herbal liqueur, lemon juice and simple syrup. Cocktail creator and front-of-house manager Emma Sterzinger said the pink-hued drink is a nod to Day of the Dead sugar skulls.

The flavor profile plays on the floral notes of the gin with hints of grapefruit, anise and bitter wormwood. Benedictine, a French herbal liqueur made with a guarded recipe involving 27 herbs and spices, adds a soft

sweetness to the concoction. Sterzinger shows love to local distillers with Chicago Distilling Company's Finn's gin and Letherbee Distillers' besk, a spirit similar to malort. The end result is a cocktail that will thaw your weary soul until it's time to head back outside.

It's worth noting that Sterzinger creates in-house syrups for the cocktail menu, and the cold-weather offerings are not to be missed. Honorable mentions include the Wet Hopped Willie with vodka, housemade pear syrup and hard cider and the Logan's Rum Runner with rum, ancho chile liqueur, raw pumpkin juice, gingerbread spiced syrup and egg white (both \$10).

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Walk into this blindingly bright two-story candy shop on Michigan Avenue, dodge at least six kids scampering among bins of gummy bears and land safely on a candy-striped bar stool in the adjoining cafe, which has a full bar. Every cocktail on the menu is, of course, made with candy. Are they cloyingly sweet? Mostly. Are they the most fun thing you'll drink all week? Absolutely. If you're looking for a show, try the Pop Rocks Explosion (\$12): When the drink (gin, elderflower, hibiscus, lemon) hits a martini glass filled with Pop Rocks, the candy goes flying from the glass. The Nerdy Mojito (\$14) looks like an island scene, with the Nerds as "pebbles" at the bottom and a Swedish fish swimming above. As far as the best bet for adult taste buds, the Drunken Sour Patch (rum, sorrel, Galliano, lime, pineapple, \$12) is tart enough to balance the sweet.

SIP & SHOP 3 unexpected places to drink in downtown Chicago

By Marissa Conrad | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It's cold. You need a drink. Everywhere is crowded. That could be your fate on whichever Saturday this season your relatives want to go shopping on the Mag Mile, but it doesn't have to be. Here are three spots where most people don't realize you can get a cocktail, beer or glass of wine.

Nordstrom

55 E. Grand Ave. 312-464-1515

Take the escalator to the second floor, and it's not a mirage—that is actually a bar in the middle of the men's department. It has the glossy feel you'd expect from Nordstrom, with a name that must have come from a room full of marketing execs (Habitant) and showpiece liquors staring at you from a 360-degree shelf that seems suspended in midair, but the cocktails (\$10-\$12) are decent. We liked the Pimiento Pomelo (tequila reposado, muddled sweet pepper, grapefruit and lemon juices, rhubarb bitters) and tolerated a slightly too bitter negroni. A menu of high-brow snacky food includes smoked sea-salt frites (frites: way sexier than plain old fries, right?), smoked salmon crostini and a cheese plate with fig jam, pickled cherries, candied pecans, sea salt lavosh crackers and prosciutto. Bar stool: Certainly a welcome upgrade from a chair outside the dressing room.



MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE FILE

Target

401 E. Illinois St. 312-894-1764

The world's first Target with a bar was letdown city when it opened in Streeterville in October: The "bar" is simply a Starbucks inside the store that sells wine and beer, which is nothing new in Chicago (see: the Starbucks at State and Ohio, the Starbucks at Michigan and Adams, the Starbucks at Oak and Rush, etc.), and you can't even carry your glass around as you shop. Looks as if you'll have to drink, then make Chardonnay-driven decisions at the \$1 Spot. Prices are relatively cheap for the area: Beer starts at \$5, and wine starts at \$7.

Nuevo Leon restaurant destroyed in fire

By Alexandra Chachkevitch

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

An extra-alarm fire early Wednesday destroyed a popular family-run restaurant that has been a mainstay in Pilsen since the early 1960s.

The fire broke out at Nuevo Leon restaurant at 1515 W. 18th St. around 12:30 a.m. and was soon upgraded to a 2-11 alarm to bring in more equipment, officials said. The fire eventually spread next door to Tortilleria Sabinas, which makes tortillas.

Firefighters battled the blaze for hours and it was struck out about 3:30 a.m., officials said.

Dozens of residents and workers from Nuevo Leon and Tortilleria gathered, some hugging each other and wiping away tears. Nuevo Leon has been around since 1962 and was a staple in Pilsen.

"We had a lot of regulars," said Maria Gutierrez, who owns the restaurant with her husband, Daniel Gutierrez. "They were like family to us."

Maria Gutierrez said every employee was out of the restaurant by about 11 p.m. when the fire started in the back of the building.

Only Gutierrez's son was on the second floor, which was an office for the business. He was dozing off when he smelled smoke and was able to get out safely, Gutierrez said.

"Everything was all right when they closed," Daniel Gutierrez said.

Groups of nearby residents periodically came up to hug the Gutierrezes as they stood at the intersection of 18th and Laflin streets early Wednesday.

"It's very hard for me to talk right now," Maria Gutierrez said with swollen eyes as she watched firefighters hose the restaurant's building with water from tower ladder trucks. "It's just devastating."

The restaurant employed about 40 employees, Gutierrez said.

Jovana Ibarra, who lives about two blocks away from the restaurant with her family, said she heard a small explosion before looking out the window to see what happened.

Ibarra's aunt, uncle and cousin-in-law have worked at Nuevo Leon for years.

"That was their income," Ibarra said. "It's just sad because I grew up, we grew up, knowing



Workers from People's Gas work to secure the gas lines outside Nuevo Leon restaurant in Pilsen on Wednesday after the restaurant was destroyed by a fire. JOSE M. OSORIO/TRIBUNE

this place. It's sad."

Daniel Gutierrez said the business was insured and the restaurant would be rebuilt.

"I'm worried about my employees right now, then my customers," he said.

The fire is still under investigation.

GUMMY SMILE?



Before



After

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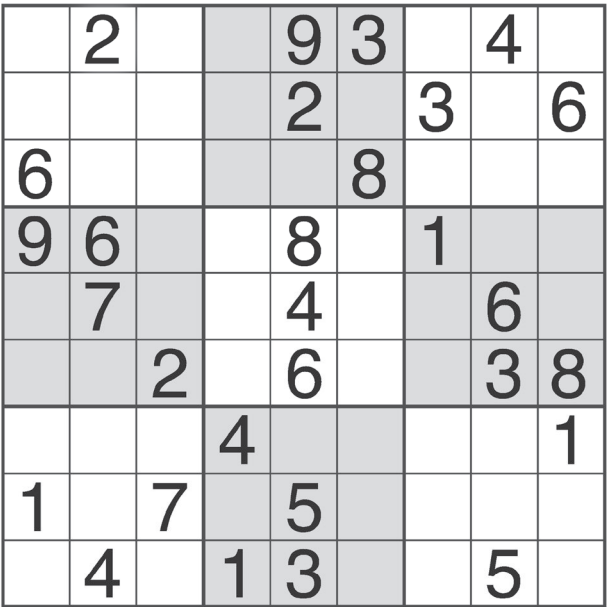
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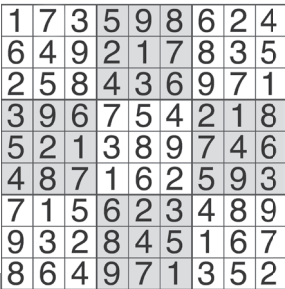
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WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

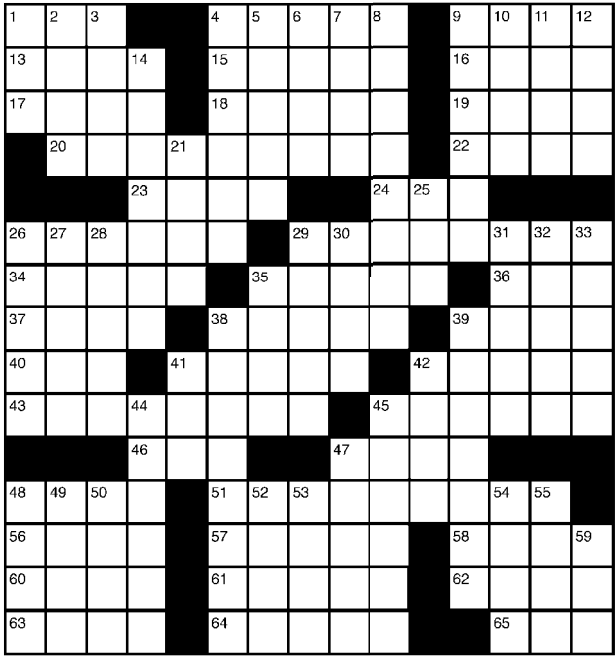


ACROSS

- 1 "Cat _ Hot
Tin Roof"
4 Remove the
lid from
9 Make fun of
13 Marries
15 Stash away
16 Up to the task
17 Slothful
18 Overly sentimental
19 _ in; bring under
control
20 Answers
22 Clerical error
23 Throw
24 Like dangerous
winter roads
26 Agree to take
29 Snail on a plate
34 Pillow covers
35 Wide
36 Actor Wallach
37 Joints nearest the belly
button
38 Pacify; make quiet
39 Injure
40 Go astray
41 Tiny weight
42 Sculpt
43 Tangiest
45 German rulers'
title, once
46 Bullring shout
47 Young miss
48 Gyro bread
51 Essential thing
56 Lion's cry
57 Hay bundles
58 _do-well; bum
60 Hole-making tools
61 Clear the slate
62 Festive event
63 Gender
64 Discontinued
65 _ as a fox

DOWN

- 1 Hooting bird
2 Close by
3 Shaping tool
4 Maximum; highest
5 degree
6 Parts of speech
7 Use foul language
8 Prolonged pain
9 education; P.E.
10 One who dies for his
beliefs
11 Follow orders
12 Cut coupons
13 Game similar to lotto
14 "All _ go!"; signal to
proceed
21 Bursts



- 25 Womanizer
26 Fireplace residue
27 Bird's comment
28 Isle of _; resort near
Naples
29 Build
30 Shoe bottom
31 _ up; prepares
32 Martini garnish
33 Stopwatch user
35 Hot cross _; sweet treats
38 Drone's mate
39 Sending

- 41 Grease
42 Vehicles
44 Rough; not fine
45 Smooched
47 Waterbirds
48 Baby buggy
49 Midwest state
50 _ tale; exaggeration
52 Make a salary
53 _ in; wearing
54 Soothing drinks
55 Holler
59 Sunbeam



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» About 50 percent of people experience "music chills" when listening to emotionally arousing songs.
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THE DIGIT

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—Lupita Nyong’o, to Elle U.K. magazine, about her role in “Star Wars: The Force Awakens”



AP PHOTO

THE DIGIT

\$15.8M

That’s how much money Time Warner companies Turner Sports and Warner Bros. have invested in “Uninterrupted,” a platform created by LeBron James and his manager Maverick Carter to showcase a series of point-of-view video shorts from athletes. According to **thr.com**, the goal is to create “athlete-centric content” for many platforms, including mobile, web and social.

Our friend 50

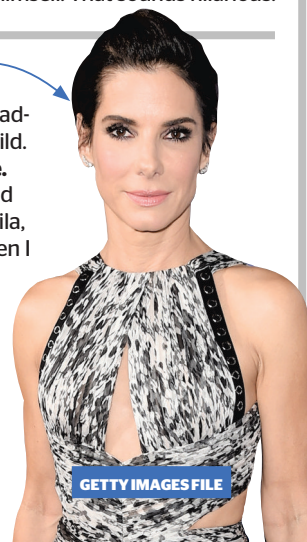
50 Cent is developing a comedy TV series for Fox, according to **billboard.com**. The show will be about the day-to-day life of a member of 50 Cent’s crew, Billboard reported. For real. The single-camera show, “My Friend 50,” will follow a 20-something woman named Amanda Kramer who “believes that joining 50 Cent’s entourage is the answer to all her problems,” according to Billboard. Oh. OK. And sometimes 50 Cent will play himself. That sounds hilarious.

Hello, it’s them

It looks like all our Internet memes have finally paid off. Adele and Lionel Richie, who both have songs called “Hello,” are planning to join forces, according to **ew.com**. Richie told E! News, “We are going to be doing something together—that’s already almost in the works.” But he said it’s unlikely that it will happen before Adele finishes touring. “Her mission is [to] get her record out and go on tour, so until she finishes that cycle, that won’t happen just yet. She is committed to that.”

Baby No. 2!

Sandra Bullock has adopted her second child. According to **people.com**, Bullock adopted a 3½-year-old girl, Laila, from Louisiana. “When I look at Laila, there’s no doubt in my mind that she was supposed to be here,” Bullock told the magazine. Bullock had previously adopted a son, Louis, in 2010.



GETTY IMAGES FILE



ALLEN J. SCHABEN / LOS ANGELES TIMES FILE

Tour no more

Kid Cudi has canceled the rest of his “Especial” tour. According to **vulture.com**, Cudi tweeted that he needed to deal with personal problems. The tour only had one date before being canceled. In his tweet, Cudi told his fans, “I [bleep]in’ love each and everyone of you with all I got and again, I am really really sorry yall.”

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